

Air Power
Quote of the Week

“If you are going to shoot him down, you have to get in there and mix it up with him” – Gen. Frederick “Boots” Blesse

News in Brief

Wellness fair

A women’s wellness fair will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. today at the Fiesta Community Center. Twenty-six organizations will be offering information for better health along with six seminars.

Seminar times:
10:15 a.m. Taking Time for Me
11:00 a.m. Post-Partum Depression
11:45 a.m. Auto Skills
12:30 p.m. Rape Awareness and Defensive Tactics
1:15 p.m. Heart Health
2:00 p.m. Osteoporosis
For more information, call 298-5474.

Lt. Col. select party

There will be a Lieutenant Colonel select party at 6 p.m. today at Club XL.

Pilot graduation

Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training class 03-06 will graduate at 10 a.m. March 14 in Anderson Hall auditorium.

Mission status

(As of Feb. 28)

Days ahead or behind with mission capable rate

T-37	-1.58	85.4%
T-1	-0.90	79.4%
T-38	-2.35	81.5%
T-6	-0.14	83.2%




Photo by Airman 1st Class Timothy Stein

ID please...

Army Spc. Lucio Tobar, 47th Security Forces Squadron entry controller, checks identification at the front gate Tuesday. Specialist Tobar is one of 32 Army National Guard members augmenting security forces.

North Korea intercepts RC-135S

By Kathleen T. Rhem
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – Four North Korean fighter jets intercepted a U.S. Air Force plane in international airspace over the Sea of Japan early Sunday, Defense Department officials said.

Two North Korean MiG-29 fighters and two other North Korean aircraft believed to be MiG-23s engaged an American RC-135S Rivet Joint reconnaissance aircraft on a routine mission 150 miles off the coast of North Korea, Navy Lt. Cmdr. Jeff Davis, a Pentagon spokesman, said Monday.

The North Korean fighters shadowed the American plane for 22 minutes starting at 10:48 a.m. local time. Commander Davis said the North Ko-

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Severe weather warnings help save lives

By Airman 1st Class Yvonne Conde
Staff writer

With tornado season approaching in April through May, it’s key for Laughlin people to know the proper procedures to take upon severe weather in the local area.

Tornadoes have been reported in the local area as early as February and as late as September. If Laughlin needs to prepare for these conditions, there are two weather notifications associated with tornadoes: a watch and a warning.

“Most people know the force protection conditions,” said Staff Sgt. Teri Heisler, 47th Flying Train-

ing Wing weather NCO. “A tornado watch is like bravo or charlie, which is an increased state of readiness and a tornado warning is like delta, it’s imminent. We’re telling you the potential is out there for this to get really ugly. We’re here to give as much of a head’s up as possible to try to protect the base and its many resources.”

The weather flight plays a major role in protecting the base from natural disasters. Weather is tracked with many different tools here as well as equipment at Barksdale Air Force Base, which joins efforts with Laughlin to forecast weather throughout the local

area, and the National Weather Service, which provides Laughlin with civilian weather watches and warnings.

The weather notifications are circulated after the local weather has been analyzed and tornadoes or other severe weather conditions could pass through the local area. Usually, a tornado or severe weather watch is the first notification issued to several base agencies such as the tower, the flying training squadrons and the command post. The latter relays the information to the base populace. If there is further development on the

See ‘Weather,’ page 4



Commanders' Corner

Lt. Col. Elizabeth Clark

47th Aeromedical Dental Squadron commander

Women's freedom comes at a cost

What does it mean to be an American woman?

It means I have the right to vote in an election that's fair and free. I have the freedom to own land and inherit property, instead of being someone's property whose value ranks below the livestock my husband owns. I have the freedom to get an education and pursue an advanced degree, instead of being banned from all education. I can thereby educate any children I may choose to have.

I can choose to marry or not, instead of being sold into marriage

or prostitution. I have the freedom to choose who I marry, instead of being bartered to neighboring tribesmen and becoming one of many wives. I have the freedom to divorce an abusive husband instead of being stoned to death for perceived adultery.

I have reproductive freedom. I can choose to have children or not, instead of having that decision made by my husband or a government. I can choose to have more than one

child and not fear for my well-being. I do not have to decide whether or not to place my daughter in an orphanage in order to meet my husband's demands for a male child.

I have freedom of speech, instead of fearing for my life if something I say offends the government. I have freedom from religious persecution — I can be a Druid, Agnostic or Christian and I will not be killed or discriminated against.

You may say we have it pretty good in the United States, and I believe you are

right. What does all this freedom cost us?

Freedom comes at a cost. We as Americans must be willing to fight to maintain these freedoms. We must be willing to hear someone shouting at the top of her voice about something we are morally opposed to and defend her right to do so. We must be willing to send our sons, daughters, husbands, wives, mothers and fathers into war to defend our freedoms and liberate those living under

oppression.

My family called recently quite upset about the anti-war protests on TV and the size of the protests in California where I am originally from. I had to remind them that part of what I am defending is every citizen's right to disagree with the government and the right to have these protests. I may not like their message but I defend their right to protest.

My Uncle Al, a former Marine, called recently saying how one announcer should be banned from saying such blatantly anti-American, anti-war sentiments on the air. I had to remind my uncle that I am in the military service to defend the right to free speech even if the message makes my blood boil.

I am proud to be an American woman with the freedoms I mentioned; especially in light of the fact most women in many nations have no freedoms and no rights. I am glad I have the freedom to serve my country even if it means going to war. I treasure my right to protect our freedoms and potentially help liberate an oppressed people. I am willing to put my life on the line to do it.

That is what freedom costs!

Life skills center isn't kiss of death

By Capt. Will Moore

Life Skills Flight commander

I'm pretty sure everyone can make a Kevin Bacon connection to someone who had career progression problems because they got in trouble through their encounter with the folks over at Life Skills.

You know the drill. "So and so" was a model troop and then, out of the blue, they were referred to Life Skills over some minor incident. The next thing you know they either got booted out of the service or they decided to leave on their own be-

cause they would never be able to advance in rank because the system was against them from then on. They were marked for life with no hope for fair treatment.

There's no denying that is the perception, even in our modern Air Force. However, the facts are quite different.

You'll never hear about the majority of folks who are seen at the Life Skills Support Center. That's the way they want it and so do we. You see, even in a system as structured as ours, privacy mat-

ters when it comes to the personal issues that folks deal with at Life Skills.

You will hear from the small percentage of active-duty members who complain that they got a bad rap and scapegoat the system as being unfair and from some who blame others for their own bad decisions.

Commanders are outspoken about their support of troops who identify their problems early and

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Editorial Staff

Col. Dan Woodward

Commander

Capt. Paula Kurtz

Public affairs chief

2nd Lt. Lindsay Logsdon

Internal information chief

Airman 1st Class Timothy J. Stein

Editor

Airman 1st Class Yvonne Conde

Staff writer

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Deadlines, Advertising

News for the Border Eagle should be submitted to the 47th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs Office, Bldg. 338, Laughlin AFB, TX, 298-5262. **Copy deadline is close of business each Thursday the week prior to publication.**

Advertising should be submitted to the Del Rio News-Herald, 2205 Bedell, Del Rio, TX, 774-4611. Advertising should be submitted by 4 p.m. each Friday.

Submissions can be e-mailed to: timothy.stein@laughlin.af.mil or yvonne.conde@laughlin.af.mil.

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seek professional help. It’s a sign of stability and maturity to exhibit help-seeking behavior but it also shows that the active duty member is taking the appropriate steps to safeguard a valuable Air Force asset.

Corrective steps are only required when common sense would demand it. Here are the guidelines: Information is confidential unless it involves child or spouse maltreatment, crimes or fraud, danger to self or others, drug and alcohol abuse or a member has a fitness for duty concern. These are instances where an active-duty member is exposed

to career consequences; however, even some of these behaviors do not have a long-term negative impact on a person’s career. On the other hand some of them should and do. For example, we really don’t want someone using drugs to be the person we rely on to protect and defend us, do we?

“When the coping skills we have relied on in the past don’t work to resolve the difficulties we face, it’s smart to seek help from professionals.”

Most people who come through the Life Skills Support Center are normal people who are experiencing normal reactions to abnormal events. Sometimes these events can be overwhelming. When the coping skills we have relied on in the past don’t work to resolve the difficulties we face, it’s smart to seek help from professionals. Life skills has

the tools to assess circumstances and can help hone individual coping skills.

Many people come for just one or two visits and find that they are able to resolve difficult problems with minimal help.

Common issues are: work-related stress, communication problems at home, poor coping behaviors such as excessive drinking or anger outbursts, loss of interest or decreased sense of pleasure in things that had been enjoyable, difficulty sleeping, spiritual crisis, social isolation and lack of self-esteem.

I you or someone you know could benefit from professional guidance in dealing with the ups and downs of life, consider the Life Skills Support Center as a viable option.

You probably don’t have anything to worry about — unless you’re a bank robber.



Col. Dan Woodward
47th Flying Training
Wing commander

Actionline
Call 298-5351

This column is one way to work through problems that haven't been solved through normal channels. By leaving your name and phone number, you are assured of a timely personal reply. It's also very useful in case more information is needed in order to pursue your inquiry. If you give your name, we will make every at-

tempt to ensure confidentiality when appropriate.

If your question relates to the general interest of the people of Laughlin, the question

and answer may also be printed in the Border Eagle.

Before you call the Actionline, please try to work the problem out through the normal chain of command or directly with the base agency involved.

Thanks for your cooperation, and I look forward to reading some quality ideas and suggestions.

AAFES	298-3176
Accounting and Finance	298-5204
Civil Engineer	298-5252
Civilian Personnel	298-5299
Commissary	298-5815
Dormitory manager	298-5213
Equal Employment Opportunity	298-5879
FWA hotline	298-4170
Hospital	298-6311
Housing	298-5904
Information line	298-5201
Legal	298-5172
Military Equal Opportunity	298-5400
Military Personnel	298-5073
Public Affairs	298-5988
Security Forces	298-5900
Services	298-5810

CDC fees

Question: My problem is, when I called to put my name on the list for the Child Development Center for the Family Dining-Out, I was told we had to belong to the Youth Center or CDC, which require a \$25 registration fee. I guess I don’t see why we have to pay a \$25 fee if we are only going to use the facility once, for a special event. So to take my children in

for one night for five hours, it’s going to cost me \$65 by the time I pay the \$3.59 per child and the registration fee. We have been to other bases and never had to pay a fee like this. Can you please tell me why we have to pay a registration fee, since we are not going to use the Youth Center on an everyday basis? Thanks.

Response: Thank you for bringing this to my attention. Here at

Laughlin Air Force Base, our services division has a tremendously well-trained staff at our CDC and the Youth Center and offers many programs that benefit our children and youth.

Throughout the year, Laughlin sponsors various special functions for our active duty personnel, families and civilian workers while providing childcare at a nominal fee. Whenever childcare is offered during these special events, there are no required reg-

istration fees besides the nominal fee per hour, per child. I sincerely apologize for any misunderstanding on this issue with respect to the Family Dining-Out. We have retrained our staff to ensure this does not happen again. If you should have any questions about the cost of childcare or concerns about the CDC or the Youth Center in the future, please feel free to contact the program directors.

Border Eagle commentary policy

The Border Eagle encourages base members to take part in their paper. Anyone wanting to write a commentary for the Viewpoint pages of the paper is welcome. Commentaries can be written about any aspect of Air Force life you find interesting,

such as why you serve or what the Air Force means to you. Commentaries should be 250 to 500 words in length. Public Affairs reserves the right to edit all submissions for length and clarity. Commentaries for the Border Eagle should be

submitted to the Public Affairs Office, Bldg. 338. The deadline to submit a commentary is close of business each Thursday, the week prior to publication. For more information, guidelines or help, call 298-5393.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Levi Collins

‘Wright’ stuff?

LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE, Va. (AFPN) – An authentic reproduction of the Wright brothers’ powered flying machine is undergoing aerodynamic testing in a wind tunnel here. A team of pilots will attempt to fly the replica for the Centennial of Flight Celebration Dec. 17 in Kitty Hawk, N.C.

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rean aircraft closed to within 50 feet of the American airplane at an equal altitude.

The fighters were armed and at least one may have engaged its fire-support radar and locked on to the American jet, he said. The RC-135S then returned unharmed to its home base in Kadena Air Base, Japan.

Defense officials said the incident is the first such direct hostile act by North Korea since MiG-17 fighters from that country shot down a U.S. Navy EC-121 reconnaissance

plane over the Sea of Japan in April 1969, killing all 31 people aboard.

Fifteen months before that shootdown, North Korean sailors boarded and captured the USS Pueblo in international waters off the coast of North Korea. One American sailor died defending the ship in the initial attack. North Korea held the surviving 82 crew members for 11 months before releasing them. All reported being beaten and tortured during their captivity. North Korea kept the Pueblo and today maintains it as a museum and propaganda tool, said DOD officials.

‘Weather,’ from page 1

radar, a tornado warning is then issued in the same fashion.

The command post notifies the entire base of a tornado warning with a long, steady siren that sounds throughout the base following a verbal notification through the base public announcement system, or “giant voice.” Once the siren is heard, people should seek shelter immediately.

Most people should shelter exactly where they are. The exception is for those who live in the mobile home park and family camp. These residents should seek shelter at the Laughlin Manor billeting office.

“If you’re caught outside, get to the nearest building and shelter in there,” said Master Sgt. James Martin, 47th Civil Engineering Squadron readiness flight chief. “Go to the innermost room of the building and get under a desk for additional [protection].”

People may have several hours or only a few minutes to prepare before a tornado passes through the local area, said Sergeant Heisler. Within the past 10 years, 17 torna-

does have been reported in Val Verde County. Eight of the 17 tornadoes were in Del Rio. The last tornado reported struck Del Rio last April. Tornadoes passing through Del Rio are able to affect the base as well. “We can see 50, 60, 70 knots and even higher [gusts] of wind here [along with] hail,” said Sergeant Heisler. “Basically, if we see something developing that may pass through Del Rio, we’re still going to issue a warning. Even if it is 20

miles away or in Brackettville, we may issue a warning because a tornado’s path is erratic and could cause major damage.”

Because tornadoes are capable of massive destruction, Sergeant Martin ad-

vises base people to stay in a safe place such as under a sturdy desk until advised it’s all clear. “It is important that everyone is informed and has a plan of action in case of natural disasters,” he said.

For more information on natural disasters, go to <http://www.laughlin.af.mil/47ftw/support/ces/readiness/index.htm> or pick up a brochure at the readiness unit in building 60.

“Basically, if we see something developing that may pass through Del Rio, we’re still going to issue a warning,”

**– Staff Sgt. Teri Heisler,
47th Flying Training Wing
weather NCO in charge**

Operations security

Laughlin members here and abroad are reminded to use operations security regarding posting photos of forward operating bases on Web sites. Adversaries can collect these photos and use them to plan attacks against United States forces. Photos can be taken and used on anti-American Web sites. Information on public Web sites is posted for the world to see; there is no control over who has access to the information.

Remember, force protection and operations security are responsibilities that begin and end with each individual.

OSC scholarships

The Laughlin Officers’ Spouses Club is offering academic and vocational scholarships to graduating seniors of an accredited high school,

Newslines

spouses of United States military members, dependent children and E-4s and below. An additional scholarship sponsored by FirstCommand is given to a high school senior. The deadline, to apply for the scholarships is April 12.

Contact the base education office, base library, local area high school counselors’ offices, local colleges or the website www.geocities.com/parklaug/OSCatLaughlinscholarship.doc for eligibility, guidelines and application forms.

For more information, call Toni Kubiak, scholarship chairman, at 298-7595.

CLEP study program

The Laughlin Education Office is offering a

College Level Examination Program study program for the five general CLEP exams. Sessions are held 11 a.m. to noon every day for one week and are in video format with accompanying workbook. Each session is limited to 12 people.

The sessions begin:

Monday – English Composition

March 17 – Social Science and History

March 24 – Natural Science

March 31 – Humanities

April 7 – Mathematics

To sign up or for more information, call 298-5545.

Tricare hours

The Tricare Service Center in the Laughlin clinic is open 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

For more information, call (800) 406-2832.

Defending against Iraqi chemical, biological threats

By Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – If Saddam Hussein decides to use chemical or biological weapons against U.S. forces, he may kill or injure more of his own forces than Americans.

“The United States fields the best-trained and best- equipped forces in the world,” said Army Maj. Gen. John Doesburg, commander of Soldier Biological and Chemical Defense Command at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md. “The Iraqi capability is extremely limited. We have – and I don’t want to overstate it – a hundred percent better capability to operate in a chemical and biological environment than the Iraqis do.”

General Doesburg along with Army Brig. Gen. Stephen Reeves, DoD’s chemical and biological defense program executive officer, and Army Col. Thomas Spoehr, 3rd Chemical Brigade commander at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., answered questions about chemical and biological defenses today during a Pentagon press meeting.

The men said that Iraqi forces being endangered by their own weapons of mass destruction doesn’t mean Hussein won’t use them anyway.

“You can never forget the fact that he used them in the past,” General Doesburg said. “Inside his mind is something that says, against everything we know and everything we feel in the world, that it’s OK to use chemical agents, because he’s done it.”

The general said Hussein did not use chemical weapons against the coalition in the 1991 Persian Gulf War. “He probably has some grave reservations about using those chemical and biological agents, but we’re going to be prepared,” he said.

When the Iraqis used chemical agents against Iran and the Kurds in the 1980s, they used them in the “classic” way. He said they placed persistent agents along the front line and nonpersistent agents along any axis of attack. He expects that if used today, the Iraqis might try something different.

But U.S. troops are trained to operate in such environments. Colonel Spoehr said there are 15,000 nuclear, biological and chemical specialists at all levels of the Army. These specialists train fellow soldiers how to operate in an NBC environment. They also advise commanders on defensive actions. In addition, there are specialized chemical and biological defense units at division and corps levels.

“The training they get is rigorous and demanding,” Colonel Spoehr said. “They learn how to operate and maintain equipment, the properties of the agents and how to predict hazardous areas.”

Every service member must successfully complete training at the Chemical Defense Training Facility – “the Super Bowl of chemical training.” They train with toxic agents and with the equipment they will use in the field.

There have been many changes to the chemical and biological agent defense equipment since the Gulf War. “We have put out 19 new systems

over the past few years. These include chemical and biological agent detectors, new individual protection systems ... new collected protection systems, new decontamination systems and new reconnaissance systems,” General Reeves said.

During the Gulf War, one persistent problem was chemical and biological detectors often rang with false alarms. “We learned our lessons from the Gulf War,” General Reeves said. “Alarms often reacted to some battlefield contaminants like diesel fuel, JP-8 and insecticides. Based on that, we developed the automatic chemical agent alarm. It’s more sensitive and has been tested against more than 80 battlefield ‘interferents.’”

This wouldn’t totally eliminate false alarms, said General Reeves. “We may still get 1 or 2 percent false alarms, but it’s a great improvement.”

Generals Reeves and Doesburg also addressed a report indicating that 250,000 chemical suits were defective. “What we’ve issued is the Joint Service Light-weight Suit Technology to those who are deployed,” General Doesburg said. “In that report, they were referring to the battle dress overgarment, which is another suit that we had.”

The new suits are up to snuff and in fact are lighter and less hot than the older battledress overgarment. While the BDO is still in inventory, it serves as a back up to the new suits. “If we have to issue some of those BDOs, ... we will inspect every one of them before they are issued to any soldier, sailor, airman or Marine,” said General Reeves.

Check out the *Border Eagle* online. The Laughlin Web page has a link or visit us at:
<http://www.laughlin.af.mil/47ftw/ftworg/pa/basepaper/index.html>

3 x 4
Rick’s
Furniture

DRNH
filler

Laughlin staff sergeant earns direct commission

By 2nd Lt. Lindsay Logsdon
Public Affairs

Although selected, Staff Sgt. Steve Fleming will not sew on the rank of technical sergeant. Instead he will be commissioned into the Medical Service Corps and will wear second lieutenant bars upon his completion of Commissioned Officer Training at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.

“It’s going to be a big change,” said Sergeant Fleming, 47th Medical Support Squadron, NCO in charge of business operations. “I started with no stripes. I was going to put [technical sergeant] on May 1, and now I will never see tech, because I’m supposed to receive my commission about three days before.”

The quick transition from enlisted to officer may seem daunting to some, but Sergeant Fleming feels prepared. “As an MSC [officer] the people who are going to be working for me are primarily going to be people who are in the career field that I have been a part of for 10 years. I feel that I will have an advantage definitely in taking care of

those people versus someone who hasn’t had any experience,” said Sergeant Fleming.

An MSC officer is a health services administrator who manages health services activities. To enter this career everyone [civilians, enlisted personnel, ROTC, U.S. Air Force Academy cadets and line officers] can compete at an MSC board held semi-annually at Randolph AFB, Texas.

Sergeant Fleming’s preparation to apply to the board started at Laughlin. “I really became career minded about the time I came here. That’s when I started looking at what the future holds and really what my options were for a career,” he said.

“He has been interested in the Medical Service Corps before I came to Laughlin in August 2001,” said Lt. Col. Mike Joseph, 47th MSS commander.

Knowing that education is highly valued and important, Sergeant Fleming started working towards a degree. “I have been going to school for the last four-and-a-half years, and I still have two classes that I will finish

in March,” he said.

Many requirements must be met to submit a complete package to the MSC board. “Academically, there were certain classes required,” he said. “To apply to the board you don’t take the Air Force Officer Qualification Test, instead you are required to take either the Graduate Record Examination or the Graduate Management Admission Test.

“The application process requires that you have an interview with an MSC O-6, and the application package also required a minimum of two recommendation letters and a quality-force type letter from your commander,” Sergeant Fleming said.

Overall, being selected as an MSC officer is competitive. “Traditionally 60 to 70 percent of the people who apply to the board already have their graduate degrees. It’s a very competitive board to meet with a bachelor’s degree,” said Sergeant Fleming.

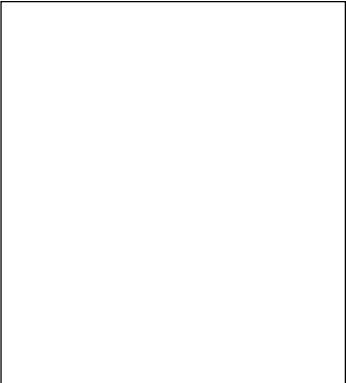
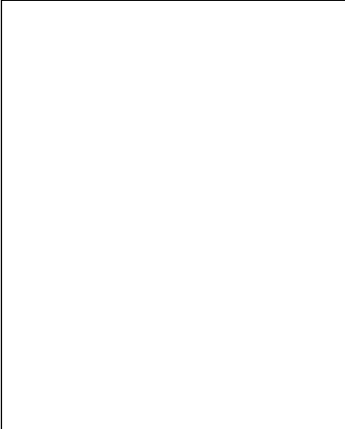
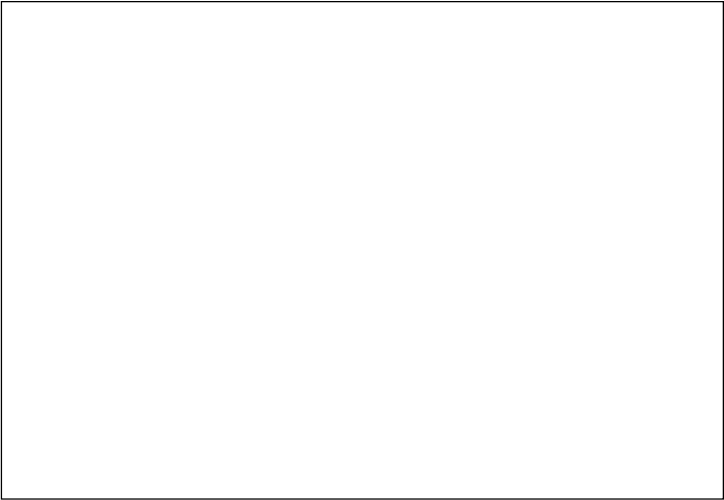
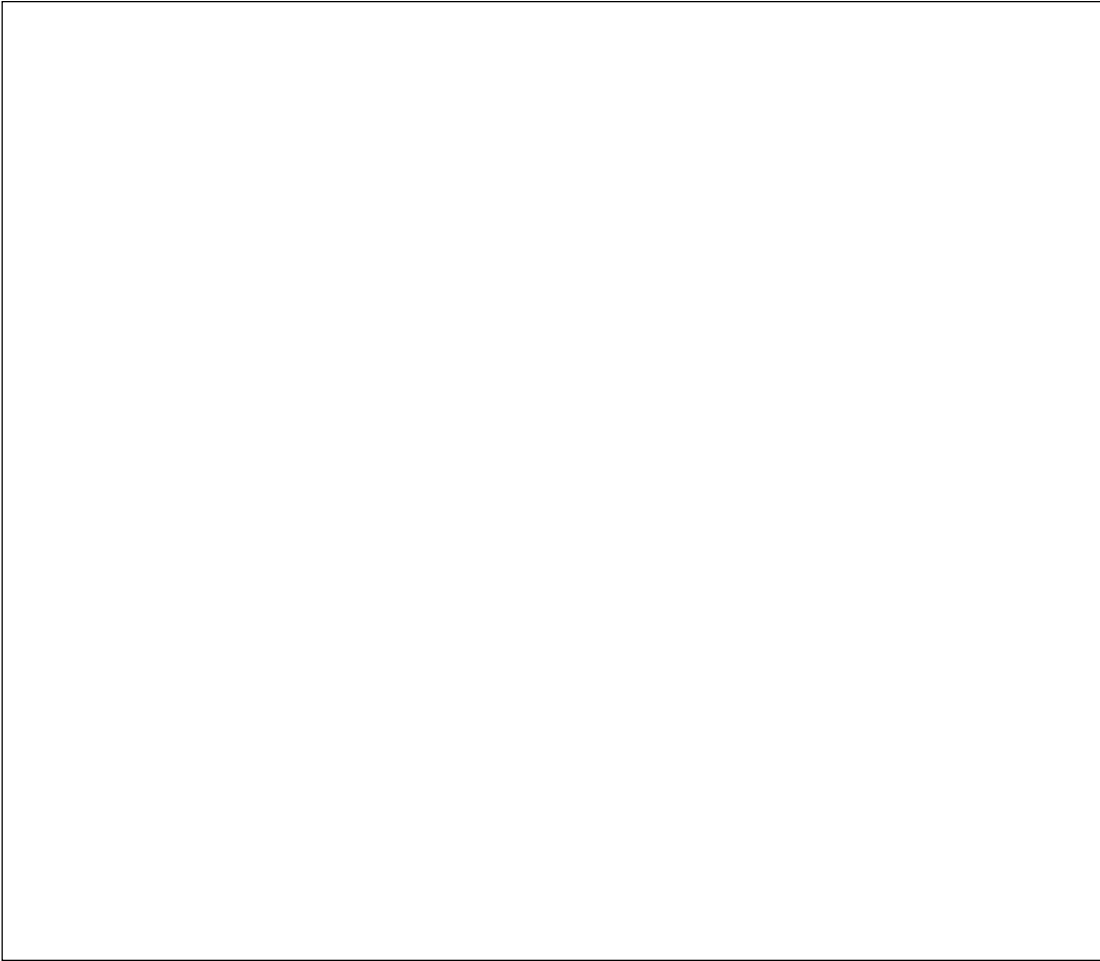
Despite the odds Sergeant Fleming was able to succeed. Colonel Joseph said, “Staff Sgt.

Fleming’s work experience as an enlisted health service administrator was a characteristic that set him apart and allowed him to take advantage of this opportunity.”

Sergeant Fleming attributes a lot of his success to his family. “My wife has been tremendous in supporting me through school, and I can’t thank her enough for standing by me,” said Sergeant Fleming.

After graduating from the COT four-week training at Maxwell, Sergeant Fleming will travel to Sheppard AFB, Texas, for the 11-week Health Services Administrator’s course. From there he will become the squadron section commander for the 382nd Training Squadron at Sheppard.

Although Sergeant Fleming will never actually see the rank of technical sergeant, he will still be putting on the same uniform, just a different rank. “It’s exciting but it’s sobering at the same time to think that I’ve reached a major milestone in my life and career. Hard work does pay off.”



New director takes reins of 47th Services Division

Compiled from staff reports

Team XL recently welcomed a new director to the 47th Services Division.

H.F. (Chip) Faver assumed command of the division Feb. 24.

Faver

Hometown: Mira Loma, Calif.

Time in service: 19 years

Education: Bachelor’s in recreation administration, a minor in small business management

Previous assignments: McClellan Air Force Base, Calif.; Misawa, Air Base, Japan; Hickam AFB, Hawaii;

Yokota AB, Japan; Shaw AFB, S.C.; Yongsan AB, Korea

Greatest feat: Climbed three 14,000 foot plus peaks and once led a group of 26 teens on a week-long ski adventure in Korea. “Figuring out which was harder will be my greatest feat.”

Leadership philosophy: Integrity always, service before self, excellence in all we do

Personal hero: Stephen Mather, first director of the National Park Service

Favorite quote: “I told you that was gonna’ hurt.” - Ron Adke, life-long friend

Hobbies: Skiing, rock climb-



Faver

ing, camping, backpacking, fishing, skeet shooting, reading, writing, computers, plastic modeling
Bad habit: I’m a do-it-yourself store junkie.





The Air Force rewards good ideas with money. Check out the IDEA Program data system at <https://ideas.randolph.af.mil>, or call 298-5236.



Photo by Tech Sgt. Adam Johnston

Give ‘em a brake!

OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM (AFPN) – Senior Airmen Jason Byrd (left) and Steven Christensen adjust a brake assembly on the gear of an RQ-1 Predator unmanned aerial vehicle at a forward deployed location. Airmen Byrd and Christensen are Predator maintenance technicians with the 11th Expeditionary Reconnaissance Squadron deployed from the 757th Avionics Maintenance Squadron at Indian Springs Air Force Auxiliary Field, Nev.

Chapel Schedule

Catholic

- Saturday* ● 5 p.m., Mass
- Sunday* ● 9:30 a.m., Mass
- Thursday* ● 6 p.m., Choir; 7:30 p.m., R.C.I.A.
- Reconciliation* ● By appointment
- Religious Education*
 - 11 a.m. Sunday

Jewish

- Call Max Stool at 775-4519

Muslim

- Call Mostafa Salama at 768-9200

Nondenominational

- Sunday* ● 6:30 p.m. Officer Christian Fellowship, call 298-2238
- Friday* ● 7 p.m., Unity in Community Fellowship (activities for children)
- Monthly* ● Women’s fellowship (call 298-1351 for details)

Protestant

- Sunday* ● 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., Sunday school
- 11 a.m., General worship (blend of contemporary and traditional worship, nursery provided)
- Wednesday* ● 10 a.m., Women’s Bible study
- 7 p.m., Choir at chapel

For more information on chapel events and services, call 298-5111.

BX uses cameras, detective to prevent theft

By Tech. Sgt. Anthony Hill
Public Affairs

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service recently hired a detective and installed additional security cameras in Laughlin's base exchange in an effort to deter thefts that have plagued the store this past year.

A large amount of thefts occurred at the BX where the staff would find opened packages with missing items, said Sue Roy, exchange manager. AAFES headquarters decided to improve the situation here by installing new cameras and hiring someone to monitor them.

An exchange detective now monitors the store using more than 30 security cameras. These include new, high-tech cameras working together with the previously installed still cameras. The new cameras are capable of panning, tilting and zooming throughout the store.

In addition to monitoring the cameras, he monitors an automated refund fraud indicator system, walks the sales floor and maintains a theft prevention program.

"The new security system is helping," said Ms. Roy. "The store has incurred hundreds of dollars in losses each month. Since beginning the new security system, we have lost about half this amount."

Stolen items range from video games, compact discs, trading cards and jewelry to military clothing and sporting goods items.

Ms. Roy said she is willing to work with individuals, especially active-duty members who may need military clothing items and can't pay for them right away. "They can just call me and ask for assistance," she said. "I can write out a hand receipt until payday so they can get the uniform items they need."

Under AAFES's Civil Recovery Program, anyone caught shoplifting from the BX is subject to a minimum \$200 administrative cost plus the price of the stolen item. In addition, all AAFES privileges are lost.

"That means they can't come into the BX to shop in the store, get a haircut or eat at Burger King," said Ms. Roy. "They can't even go to the movies at the theater or

visit the shoppette." If someone who is barred from AAFES facilities attempts to visit those areas, the manager said they will be asked to leave or face charges for trespassing.

In addition to being barred from AAFES facilities, shoplifters can also face legal punishment. After an investigation concludes and the facts have been obtained, that person's commander makes a decision on how to proceed, said Capt. Aniya Dunkley, 47th Flying Training Wing assistant staff judge advocate. "A lot of factors go into what happens to someone, such as the severity of the offense that person committed," she said.

A military person could receive a range of administrative disciplinary consequences to include a letter of reprimand, an Article 15 or court martial.

In addition, a system is in place to handle offenses committed by dependent juveniles. In their case, a magistrate determines their punishment, which could include curfews and other restrictions.



Photo by Tech Sgt. Anthony Hill

The base exchange detective watches for shoplifters with new cameras and monitors installed at the base exchange.

"In an extreme case, the juvenile and their family could be barred from base," said Captain Dunkley. "The best thing to do is not do it. The consequences outweigh any benefits to stealing, especially if the results include a family being barred from base or a military member being at risk of ruining their career."

BX management is willing to work with base agencies to set up an orientation of the store and its theft prevention program. Call the BX staff at 298-3627 for

tours.

"If anyone gets caught shoplifting here, they will pay the consequences," said Ms. Roy. "Our associates who work in the store are well-trained in detecting potential shoplifters. We work as a team, and the primary thing we want to do is deter theft. If people know we are monitoring them through cameras and walking the floors, maybe that will keep them from stealing. And, if we can do anything else to help prevent theft, we urge people to let us know."

Security forces explains mysteries of FPCONs

By 2nd Lt. Sarah Bragg
Wing anti-terrorism officer

Recently, Americans realized that simply being within our borders does not make us immune to terrorism, which causes us to pay more attention to threat information.

The response to this kind of information usually starts with a change in our force protection condition.

The established actions of the FPCONs are focused on preventing a successful terrorist act at the level at which the threat exists. Of course, everyone has seen the official definitions of the FPCONs on the brightly colored signs, but what do they all really mean? In layman's terms they are:

■FPCON Normal: Not much information on terrorist activity; keep your eyes open.

■FPCON Alpha: Terrorist activity exists somewhere; catch them before they get us.

■FPCON Bravo: Increased terrorist activity or more information; stay on your toes.

■FPCON Charlie: Specific terrorist activity is coming our way; hunker down.

■FPCON Delta: Terrorists have attacked or will attack this base; time for all-out defense.

FPCON situations vary, and the security forces personnel respond accordingly. They are directed to take specific measures in response to the information received. At times, FPCON Bravo may require airmen to meet a pizza delivery person at the gate; in other instances, it may

be delivered to their door under the same FPCON.

The gates may be locked down in FPCON Delta, which means no one can get in until they are unlocked. While these occurrences are inconvenient, they are rare and short-term.

Please don't blame the gate guard. She is simply enforcing the rules she is issued.

Security forces is required to perform random anti-terrorism measures, for the security of the base. As the name states, they are done at random times for varying lengths of time.

Random checks support the idea that if the base is being watched, a terrorist won't be able to figure out a best time to come through the gate.

Twin co-pilots support Operation Enduring Freedom

By 1st Lt.
Christine D. Millette
*40th Air Expeditionary Wing
Public Affairs*

OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM – Born in Cincinnati, it would have been hard to guess that 26 years later the Summers twins would both be flying jets supporting America’s war on terrorism from a forward-deployed location. First Lt. Marc Summers, a 28th Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron co-pilot who is forward deployed, and 1st Lt. Brad Summers, a

co-pilot from the 32nd Air Refueling Squadron at McGuire Air Force Base, N.J., are identical twins. They recently spent a day together supporting Operation Enduring Freedom. Brad, a KC-10 Extender operator, said that it was lucky coincidence that the two brothers got to work together. “We [the KC-10 crew] got extended,” Brad said, “which gave Marc and [me] the opportunity to work together.” The twins graduated to-

gether from the same squadron at the Air Force Academy and both went through undergraduate pilot training at Vance AFB, Okla., where Brad was one class behind Marc. Since that time, they had been completely separated in their careers, Brad tracking in KC-10s and living in New Jersey, Marc in KC-135 Stratotankers and stationed at Fairchild AFB, Wash. “We’ve never had the chance to work together,” said Marc, “and odds are low that we’ll get to do it again,

so this was very exciting for us and for dad.” The brothers’ father was also active-duty Air Force. Their mission was to get three transient Australian fighters to another forward-operating location in Southwest Asia. “Brad’s crew was tasked to refuel the fighters, while we were tasked to refuel the KC-10,” Marc said. So in the middle of the day’s heat, the two crews boarded their respective planes and took off behind the three fighters, complet-

ing a successful mission. “Usually we’re stuck in completely different desert locations, supporting separate missions,” said Marc. “It was very cool that we happen to be here at the same time.” While they live on opposite coasts and are constantly working contingency missions, the Summers brothers try to keep in touch on a regular basis. “We talk about once a week, or once a month, depending on our deployments and missions,” Brad said.



Yokota students continue orphanage bond

By Master Sgt. Val Gempis
Air Force Print News

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan – Students from Yokota East Elementary School experienced the joys of giving, sharing and making friends when they visited an orphanage in suburban Tokyo March 1.

During the visit, the sounds of American and Japanese children playing and laughing filled the cramped two-story Aiji-no-ie (House of Affection) facility. Even though the language barrier at times was a little bit challenging, most of the base students said they wish they could stay longer so they could spend more time with their new friends.

“This is absolutely a wonderful experience for our kids,” said Joan Mendel, a third-grade teacher and coordinator for this event.

Mendel said that the students

learned a lot about Japanese culture and customs during their annual visit. She believes the trip gave the children an opportunity to make friends and realize how fortunate they are.

“This is a very worthy cause,” she said. “It’s very satisfying and educational.”

During the daylong visit, the Aiji-no-ie staff ensured that their guests had plenty of activities to keep them busy including Japanese doll making, flower arranging, calligraphy and a tea ceremony demonstration. They also played various games and learned how to make rice cake. The children also enjoyed wearing traditional Japanese kimonos during a photo session.

Yokota East Elementary School and the Aiji-no-ie orphanage have been conducting a student exchange program for more than 20 years. The base invites the orphans to visit sev-



Photo by Master Sgt. Val Gempis

Anni Jacketti wears a kimono during a photo session at an orphanage in Tokyo. Students from Yokota East Elementary School at Yokota Air Base, Japan, visited the orphanage Saturday. The school and orphanage have been conducting a student exchange program more than 20 years.

eral times a year. In return, the orphanage asks the school to come by

each March during the “Girls Day Celebration.”



Laughlin Salutes

Air Education and Training Command Communications-Electronics Systems Airman of the Year:

■ Senior Airman Bruce Lee, 47th Communications Squadron

AETC Air Force Aid Civilian Wage Employee of the Year:

■ Gilberto Martinez, 47th

Maintenance Directorate AETC Public Health Airman of the Year:

■ Senior Airman Irene Schwaninger, 47th Aero-medical Dental Squadron

AETC Outstanding Installation Spectrum Manager of the Year:

■ Senior Airman Billy West, 47th CS

Thinking about getting out?
Think again.

Call the career assistance adviser at 298-5456 for guidance.

The XLer



Photo by Airman 1st Class Timothy J. Stein

Airman 1st Class Kevin Balch
47th Communications Squadron

Hometown: Springfield, Ohio

Family: Wife, Sarah; dog, Triscuit; and baby boy on the way, Carter Dale

Time at Laughlin: One year, 11 months

Time in service: Two years, nine months

Greatest accomplishment: Marrying my beautiful wife

Hobbies: Golf, softball and bowling

Favorite music: Alternative, rock and classic rock

Favorite movie: Family Man

If you could spend one hour with any person, who would it be and why? My mom, I lived with my dad and she was 400 miles away, but she was always there for me in the good times and the bad. I love her very much.

Med group takes down SFS, 48-41

By Airman 1st Class
Timothy Stein

Editor
One day before Chris Morlandt would go into the record books, he led 47th Medical Group past 47th Security Forces Squadron, 48-41, in a match of Western Conference rivals Tuesday.

SFS played from behind most of the game but never gave up, coming close to catching Med group several times. SFS

could never get the big play when they needed it. The first half saw both teams testing the others' defense with the score close the whole time. Near the end of the half Med group gained a seven point lead and was able to hold it going into the second half.

The second half saw Med group jumping to a 13-point lead early. SFS quickly rebounded and pulled to within two points, mostly through the play of Robert Perez, who had 21 points on the night.

Up by two, Med group turned up the pressure on defense and made SFS turn the ball over several times. Converting on the turnovers, Med group found themselves up 47-38. SFS tried but couldn't get another rally going, and fell 48-41.

Wednesday night, Morlandt set a new Laughlin record for most points in one game. While playing CPTF, he scored 52 points in a game the Med group won, 88-55.

Basketball standings

Eastern Conference

Team	W-L	PF	PA
87th	10-0	493	338
86th	8-3	444	364
OSS No. 1	7-3	422	325
LCSAM	4-6	288	296
84/85th	1-8	282	354
OSS No. 2	0-10	222	407

Western Conference

Team	W-L	PF	PA
CES	10-1	698	498
SFS	8-4	518	412
Med Gp	6-4	448	433
CPTF	4-9	475	618
LSI	4-9	464	537
CCS	2-9	323	420

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